

Royal Hotel Swanage.

3rd Oct 1852 (4)

My dear Uncle John.

I have no doubt you have heard indirectly of our whereabouts & going on, but I think you ought to have a dispatch from the high contracting parties. Maria at this writing is fast asleep on the sofa having been on the water & about a good deal in the course of the day, so that I am free in idleness - a good stout love verging. it may be counted in days - or forty. & growing greyer every day at least Miss cap so & she ought to know -

I did not see much of Dorchester around there late on Thursday & leaving it, after luncheon on Friday. My better half was not disposed to walk out on Friday morning, so I took a solitary ramble and stood alone on the Roman Amphitheatre

We had a very pleasant drive to Swanage. two stages - 17 miles & 11.
changing horses at Wareham. Arrived at Swanage we found very comfortable
quarters at the Hotel. & I am very glad
we did not take lodgings. The place is
very small & primitive - hardly any
shops. A housekeeper would have been
very difficult. as the Hotel bones the
best of the one Butchers meat. & there
is no fishmonger & no poultryman. Such
fish as are caught. small soles. whiting
poults. & lobsters. chiefly finding their
way to the Hotel. We have a charming
sitting room. our window commanding
the Bay. The other (when it is visible)
the Isle of Wight. Near at hand are
two other bed rooms. communicating -
in one of which Ann Peters resided.
The Mrs. serves us. in a dressing room
the door I was observed to be locked the
key is on my side. I felt bound to offer
the custody of it to my Missis, but

she has nobly upheld the offer. This suite of apartments occupies the front floor fore wing of the Hotel so that we are quite detached & as quiet, or quieter than we should be in lodgings. We walk & draw sketches. we go on the water. I tried to fish yesterday but without success. This morning I have established in a Basin, an aquælic vivarium. I have got 10 or a dozen sea anemones. & several kinds of sea snails or periwinkles & with a stone covered with sea weed. of the varied & beautiful colors of the anemones I assure you it is exceeding pretty. I heated them to cold beef at dinner time & I assure you they took hold of it & eat it greedily. This evening they are on biscuits, but they do not seem to appreciate them as they did the Beef. The Doctor. (Rev. D. Graves) called this afternoon & was quite astonished to see my little collection. One of the anemones purple scarlet & blue. has a young one. a tiny little thing which she keeps within her hundred arms with great care.

Sir H' Della Beche I find this afternoon
is staying in the Hotel. He is occupied
in the legs & is carried out. when he
goes on the water.

Corse Castle - which we passed on
our way here - is a noble ruin.
Its situation is very striking.

Japau you as han' been & are
enjoying the luxury of collecting & tho'
we have now been married six days
we have not quarrelled yet.

Some of these day, I hope we shall
all again meet under our roof
at Headonhead. of many pleasant
recollections. Meanwhile you will
excuse the little nothing of a vacant
mind. but especially heart. & believe me
to be, with all kind wishes.

Yours & affectionately yours
Kedean' Quay.

I would sign "nephew" if I were
something younger. Mai eats like a
good man & says she is fatter already.
J. P. Collier Esq